

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of displaying a graphical representation of a server-side object, comprising:
  - (a) upon a triggering event, requesting code that represents a user interface from a server;
  - (b) deactivating at least one element in the requested code, wherein the element causes an action to be taken when activated; and
  - (c) displaying the graphical representation of the server-side object using the requested code.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein before deactivation, the element in the requested code is activated when a graphical object associated with the element is selected.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the graphical object is a button or a hypertext link.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising changing an address of an image in the code.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the address is a relative reference to a location of the image.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the code is written in a markup language.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the markup language is a hypertext markup language.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein the triggering event includes at least one of: placing an icon associated with the server-side object on a page in a visual development environment; changing a property of a control; opening a file containing a control in the visual development environment; refreshing the visual development environment; polling by the visual development environment that indicates that the server-side object is changed; and a message sent from a server indicating that the server-side object is changed.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the graphical representation is visually similar to what is generated when an executing application requests the server-side object.

10. A modulated data signal including computer-executable instructions for displaying a graphical representation of a server-side object in a visual development environment, comprising:

- (a) upon a triggering event, requesting code that represents a user interface from a server;
- (b) deactivating at least one element in the requested code, wherein the element causes an action to be taken when activated; and
- (c) displaying the graphical representation of the server-side object using the requested code.

11. The modulated data signal of claim 10, further comprising changing in the code a reference to an image to another reference to the image.

12. The modulated data signal of claim 11, wherein before deactivation, activating the element in the code causes an action to occur.

13. The modulated data signal of claim 12, wherein activating the element includes selecting a graphical object associated with the element, wherein the graphical

object is a proxy in a visual development environment, wherein the proxy proxies for the server-side object.

14. The modulated data signal of claim 13, wherein the graphical object includes at least one of a button and a hypertext link.

15. The modulated data signal of claim 11, wherein the code is written in a markup language.

16. The modulated data signal of claim 11, wherein the triggering event includes at least one of placing an icon associated with the server-side object on a page in the visual development environment; changing a property of a control; opening a file containing a control in the visual development environment; refreshing the visual development environment; polling by the visual development environment that indicates that the server-side object is changed; and a message sent from a server indicating that the server-side object is changed.

17. The modulated data signal of claim 11, wherein the graphical representation includes dimensions that are visually similar to a graphical object that is generated when an executing application requests the server-side object.

18. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for creating Web application programs in a visual development environment, comprising:

- (a) upon a triggering event, requesting code that represents a user interface from a server;
- (b) deactivating at least one element in the requested code, wherein the element causes an action to be taken when activated; and
- (c) displaying the graphical representation of the server-side object using the requested code.
- (d)

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, further comprising changing in the code a reference to an image to another reference to the image.

20. A method of displaying a graphical representation of a server-side object, comprising:

(a) means for requesting code that represents a user interface from a server when a triggering event occurs;

(b) means for deactivating at least one element in the requested code, wherein the element causes an action to be taken when activated; and

(c) means for displaying the graphical representation of the server-side object using the requested code.